

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus comprising:

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to conditions input by condition input means of inputting said conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding thereto designated through the terminal of a user via the Internet, from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said contents are registered by registration means, wherein

said recommended contents are output to said terminal by output means via said Internet.

2. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus comprising:

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to conditions input by condition input means of inputting said conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding thereto, from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said contents are registered by registration means, wherein

said recommended contents are output by output means, and

said items are subjective items resulting from human decisions and impressions, and/or objective items free from human decisions and impressions.

3. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus comprising:

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to conditions input by condition input means of inputting said conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding thereto, from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said contents are registered by registration means, wherein

said recommended contents are output by output means, and

a scoring method for scoring points to each of said items depending on the degree of similarity is predetermined in order to judge the similarity between said conditions to be input and each of said contents.

4. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus comprising:

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to conditions input by condition input means of inputting said conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding thereto, from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said contents are registered by registration means, wherein

said recommended contents are output by output means, and

a thesaurus is used to judge the similarity between said conditions to be input and each of said contents in the case when said attribute values are represented by words.

5.-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the characteristic of each item of said user is obtained by calculation each time said user registers said data.

10. (Cancelled).

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11. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the characteristic of each item of said user is obtained by calculation by characteristic calculation means each time said user receives recommendation or each time said user receives recommendation and specifies the contents.

12. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 8 or 10, wherein, when said conditions are extracted from said contents, said conditions having tendencies opposite to those of said contents are extracted.

13. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said condition input means inputs said externally input conditions and said automatically extracted conditions, and

said recommendation means selects contents coincident with or similar to said automatically extracted conditions from only said contents conforming to said externally input conditions and recommend said selected contents.

14. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus comprising:

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to conditions input by condition input means of inputting said conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding thereto, from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said contents are registered by registration means, wherein

said recommended contents are output by output means,

on the basis of contents registered in the past by a user attempting to receive recommendation, contents recommended to said user or contents recommended to and specified by said user, characteristic information calculation means of obtaining characteristic information by calculation for each of said items and storing said characteristic information obtains said characteristic information by calculation and stores said characteristic information, and

in the case of recommendation to a specific user, said recommendation means specifies other users whose characteristic information is coincident or similar to said characteristic information of said specific user by using said stored characteristic information, and selects and recommends contents registered in the past by said other users, contents recommended to said other users or contents recommended to and specified by said other users.

15. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus comprising:

recommendation means of selecting and recommending recipes coincident with or similar to conditions input by condition input means of inputting said conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding thereto from a content database, that is, from among said recipes formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in said content database in which said recipes are registered by registration means, wherein

said recommended contents are output by output means,

said content database is classified into recipe groups for dishes taken for a meal, and

when said conditions are input, said recommendation means determines a recipe coincident with or most similar to said conditions, and selects and determines all or part of recipes other than said determined recipe.

16. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus comprising:

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to conditions input by condition input means of inputting said conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding thereto, from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said contents are registered by registration means, wherein

said recommended contents are output by output means,

on the basis of contents registered in the past by a user attempting to receive recommendation, contents recommended to said user or contents recommended to and specified by said user, characteristic information calculation means of obtaining characteristic information by calculation for each of said items and storing said characteristic information obtains said characteristic information by calculation and stores said characteristic information,

while various characteristics regarding said user have been input, type information calculation means of using said characteristic information obtained for each of said items by calculation for each characteristic as said type information, and

type judgment means judges the type of said user attempting to receive recommendation by comparing said characteristic information of said user attempting to receive recommendation with said type information.

17. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus comprising:

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to conditions input by condition input means of inputting said conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding thereto, from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said contents are registered by registration means, wherein

said recommended contents are output by output means, and

among advertisements stored in an advertisement database for storing plural advertisements having related information having the same configuration as those of said items and said attribute values in said contents, advertisements coincident with or similar to said input conditions are specified by advertisement specifying means.

18. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus comprising:

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to conditions input by condition input means of inputting said conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding

thereto, from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said contents are registered by registration means, wherein

said recommended contents are output by output means, and

among advertisements stored in an advertisement database for storing plural advertisements having related information having the same configuration as those of said item and said attribute value in said contents, on the basis of contents registered in the past by a user attempting to receive recommendation, contents recommended to said user or contents recommended to and specified by said user, said advertisement, which is similar to the characteristic information of each item for said user and is obtained by calculation and stored, is specified by advertisement specifying means.

19. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 17 or 18, wherein

the number of times said advertisement is specified is counted by an advertisement counter, and

an advertisement rate is charged depending on the count value of said advertisement counter.

20. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 6 and 13 to 18, wherein said condition input means inputs said conditions by using a one-dimensional or two-dimensional interface.

21. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus according to one of claims 1 to 11 and 13 to 18, wherein said recommendation means does not recommend said contents recommended to a user in a predetermined period in the past to said user again.

22. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus according to one of claims 1, 2, 5 to 11 and 13 to 18, wherein said recommendation means selects and

recommends contents including a character string coincident with the character string included in said input conditions from said content database.

23. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation apparatus comprising:

from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said contents are registered by registration means,

recommendation means, in the case when recommendation is performed to said user having an input user ID, of specifying other users whose characteristic information is coincident or similar to said characteristic information of said user having said user ID by using said characteristic information, and of selecting and recommending only the contents not recommended to said user having said user ID or only the contents recommended to but not specified by said user from among contents registered in the past by said specified user, contents recommended to said user or contents recommended to and specified by said user,

wherein said recommended contents are output by output means, and

said characteristic information is obtained by calculation for each item and stored by characteristic information calculation means on the basis of contents registered in the past by each user attempting to receive recommendation, contents recommended to said user or contents recommended to and specified by said user.

24. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation system comprising:

a content database for storing contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto;

content registration means of registering said contents in said content database;

condition input means of inputting conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values via the Internet when said conditions are designated through the terminal of a user;

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recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to said input conditions from said content database; and

output means of outputting said recommended contents to said terminal via said Internet.

25. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation system comprising:

a content database for storing contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto;

content registration means of registering said contents in said content database;

condition input means of inputting conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values;

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to said input conditions from said content database; and

output means of outputting said selected contents, wherein

said items are subjective items resulting from human decisions and impressions, and/or objective items free from human decisions and impressions.

26. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation system comprising:

a content database for storing contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto;

content registration means of registering said contents in said content database;

condition input means of inputting conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values;

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to said input conditions from said content database; and

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output means of outputting said recommended contents, wherein

a scoring method for scoring points to each of said items depending on the degree of similarity is predetermined in order to judge the similarity between said conditions to be input and each of said contents.

27. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation system comprising:

a content database for storing contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto;

content registration means of registering said contents in said content database;

condition input means of inputting conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values;

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to said input conditions from said content database; and

output means of outputting said recommended contents, wherein

a thesaurus is used to judge the similarity between said conditions to be input and each of said contents in the case when said attribute values are represented by words.

28. (Currently Amended) An information recommendation ~~system~~ apparatus comprising:

a content database for storing contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto;

content registration means of receiving the registration of new contents from the user and registering said new contents in said content database;

condition input means of inputting conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values;

recommendation means of selecting and recommending said contents coincident with or similar to said input conditions by said condition input means from said content database;~~and~~

access history control means of determining the number of recommendation times and recommendation information of contents recommended by said recommendation means on the basis of the number of times the user carried out content registration by using said content registration means, and

output means of outputting said contents determined by said access history control means~~said recommended contents, wherein~~

~~the number of times or the content of the recommendation which a user attempting to receive recommendation receives is determined depending on the number of times said user carried out registration by using said content registration means.~~

29. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation system comprising:

a content database for storing contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto;

content registration means of registering said contents in said content database;

condition input means of inputting conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values;

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to said input conditions from said content database;

output means of outputting said recommended contents, and

condition extraction means of automatically extracting said conditions, wherein

said conditions input to said condition input means are conditions extracted by condition extraction means.

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30. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation system comprising:

a content database for storing contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto;

content registration means of registering said contents in said content database;

condition input means of inputting conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values;

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to said input conditions from said content database;

output means of outputting said recommended contents; and

characteristic information calculation means of obtaining characteristic information by calculation for each of said items and storing said characteristic information on the basis of contents registered in the past by a user attempting to receive recommendation, contents recommended to said user or contents recommended to and specified by said user, wherein,

in the case of recommendation to a specific user, said recommendation means specifies other users whose characteristic information is coincident or similar to said characteristic information of said specific user by using said stored characteristic information, and selects and recommends contents registered in the past by said other users, contents recommended to said other users or contents recommended to and specified by said other users.

31. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation system comprising:

a content database for storing recipes formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto;

content registration means of registering said recipes in said content database;

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condition input means of inputting conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values;

recommendation means of selecting and recommending recipes coincident with or similar to said input conditions from said content database; and

output means of outputting said recommended contents, wherein

said content database is classified into recipe groups for dishes taken for a meal, and

when said conditions are input, said recommendation means determines a recipe coincident with or most similar to said conditions, and selects and determines all or part of recipes other than said determined recipe.

32. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation system comprising:

a content database for storing contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto;

content registration means of registering said contents in said content database;

condition input means of inputting conditions represented by predetermined item and attribute values;

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to said input conditions from said content database;

output means of outputting said recommended contents;

characteristic information calculation means of obtaining characteristic information by calculation for each of said items and storing said characteristic information on the basis of contents registered in the past by a user attempting to receive recommendation, contents recommended to said user or contents recommended to and specified by said user;

type information calculation means of using said characteristic information obtained by calculation for each characteristic as type information, while various characteristics regarding said user have been input; and

type judgment means of judging the type of said user attempting to receive recommendation by comparing said characteristic information of said user with said type information.

33. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation system comprising:

a content database for storing contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto;

content registration means of registering said contents in said content database;

condition input means of inputting conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values;

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to said input conditions from said content database;

output means of outputting said recommended contents;

advertisement database for storing plural advertisements having related information having the same configuration as those of said items and said attribute values in said contents; and

advertisement specifying means of specifying advertisements coincident with or similar to said input conditions among advertisements stored in said advertisement database.

34. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation system comprising:

a content database for storing contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto;

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content registration means of registering said contents in said content database;

condition input means of inputting conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values;

recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to said input conditions from said content database;

output means of outputting said recommended contents;

advertisement database for storing plural advertisements having related information having the same configuration as those of said items and said attribute values in said contents; and

advertisement specifying means of specifying an advertisement, which is similar to the characteristic information of each item for a user and obtained by calculation and stored on the basis of contents registered in the past by said user attempting to receive recommendation, contents recommended to said user or contents recommended to and specified by said user, among said advertisements stored in said advertisement database.

35. (Withdrawn) An information recommendation system comprising:

a content database for storing contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto;

content registration means of registering said contents in said content database;

characteristic information calculation means of obtaining characteristic information by calculation for each of said items and storing said characteristic information on the basis of contents registered in the past by a user attempting to receive recommendation, contents recommended to said user or contents recommended to and specified by said user;

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recommendation means, in the case when recommendation is performed to said user having an input user ID, of specifying other users whose characteristic information is coincident with or similar to said characteristic information to said user having said user ID by using stored characteristic information, and of selecting and recommending only the contents not recommended to said user having said user ID or the contents recommended to but not specified by said user from among contents registered in the past by said specified user, contents recommended to said user or contents recommended to and specified by said user, in said content database; and

output means of outputting said recommended contents.

36. (Withdrawn) A program, in an information recommendation apparatus according to claim 1, for making a computer function as all or part of recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to conditions input by condition input means of inputting said conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding thereto designated through the terminal of a user via the Internet, from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said contents are registered by registration means.

37. (Withdrawn) A program, in an information recommendation apparatus of claims 2-11, 13, 14 and 16-18, for making a computer function as all or part of recommendation means of selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to conditions input by condition input means of inputting said conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding thereto, from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said contents are registered by registration means.

38. (Withdrawn) A program, in an information recommendation apparatus according to claim 15, for making a computer function as all or part of recommendation means of selecting and recommending recipes coincident with or similar to conditions input by condition input means of inputting said conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding thereto, from among said recipes formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute

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values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said recipes are registered by registration means.

39. (Withdrawn) A program, in an information recommendation apparatus according to claim 23, for making a computer function as all or part of recommendation means, in the case when recommendation is performed to said user having an input user ID, of specifying other users whose characteristic information coincident with or similar to said characteristic information to said user having said user ID by using characteristic information, and of selecting and recommending only the contents not recommended to said user having said user ID or the contents recommended to but not specified by said user from among contents registered in the past by said specified user, contents recommended to said user or contents recommended to and specified by said user, from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which said contents are registered by registration means.

40.-47. (Cancelled).

48. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a recommendation comprising:

receiving conditions input, the conditions represented by predetermined items and attribute values corresponding thereto, from among contents formed of plural pieces of data having plural items and attribute values corresponding thereto and stored in a content database in which ~~said~~new contents are registered;

selecting and recommending contents coincident with or similar to the conditions input; and

outputting the recommended contents, wherein a number of times or the content of the recommendation which a user attempting to receive recommendation receives is determined depending on the number of times said user carried out registration.

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49. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 48 wherein the number of registration times of said user is determined (a) by checking the access history of said user with respect to registration or (b) by assigning the user ID of the registrant to said content and by using said user ID.

50. (Cancelled).

51. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~50~~48 wherein said conditions input are automatically extracted based on contents registered in the past by a user who will receive recommendation.

52. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~50~~48 wherein the conditions input are automatically extracted based on contents recommended in the past to a user who is attempting to receive recommendation or based on contents recommended to and specified by said user.

53. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said new contents to be registered by the user are cooking contents, and items constituting said cooking contents include objective items including at least one data item of cooking time, the number of dishes, calorie, material cost, family structure and atmospheric temperature, and subjective items including at least one data item of tastiness level, satisfaction level, enjoyment level, richness level and refreshment level.

54. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 53, wherein said new contents to be registered by the user are cooking contents, and items constituting said cooking contents further have an item of making distinction between a person who cooks and a person who eats.

55. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to any one of claims 28, 53, and 54, wherein said condition input means is equipped with condition extraction means of extracting input conditions on the basis of the new contents having been registered in the past by the user who receives recommendation.

56. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to any one of the claims 28, 53, and 54, wherein said condition input means is equipped with

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condition extraction means of extracting input conditions on the basis of the contents having been recommended in the past to the user attempting to receive recommendation or the contents recommended to and designated by the user.

57. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to any one of claims 28, 53, and 54, wherein said condition input means is equipped with condition extraction means of extracting input conditions on the basis of the occurrence frequencies of the attribute values corresponding to the items constituting the new contents registered in the past by the user who receives recommendation.

58. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to any one of claims 28, 53, and 54, wherein said condition input means is equipped with the condition extraction means of extracting input conditions on the basis of the occurrence frequencies of the attribute values corresponding to the items constituting the contents having been recommended in the past to the user attempting to receive recommendation or the occurrence frequencies of the attribute values corresponding to the items constituting the contents recommended to and designated by the user by using designation means.

59. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to any one of claims 28, 53, and 54, wherein said condition input means is equipped with condition extraction means of extracting input conditions on the basis of occurrence frequencies of the words extracted from the texts in the contents registered in the past by the user who receives recommendation.

60. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to any one of claims 28, 53, and 54, wherein said condition input means is equipped with condition extraction means of extracting input conditions on the basis of the occurrence frequencies of the words extracted from the texts in the contents having been recommended in the past to the user attempting to receive recommendation or the occurrence frequencies of the words extracted from the texts in the contents recommended to and designated by the user.

61. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 57, wherein said conditions having tendencies opposite to the tendencies of the occurrence frequencies of said contents are extracted as said input conditions.

62. (New) An information recommendation apparatus wherein

said condition input means comprises means of externally inputting conditions, and said condition extraction means according to claim 55, and

said recommendation means selects said contents, coincident with or similar to said conditions extracted by using said condition extraction means, from only said contents conforming to said externally input conditions, and recommends said selected contents.

63. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 28, comprising:

user characteristic information calculation means of obtaining characteristic information by calculation for each of said items on the basis of the contents registered in the past by the user who receives recommendation, or the contents recommended to the user or the contents recommended to and designated by the user by using designation means, and

a user characteristic information data base of storing the characteristic information obtained by calculation by using said user characteristic information calculation means, wherein

in the case of recommendation to a specific user, said recommendation means specifies other users whose characteristic information is coincident with or similar to said characteristic information of said specific user on the basis of said characteristic information stored in said user characteristic information database, and selects and recommends the contents registered in the past by the other users or the contents recommended to and designated by the other users.

64. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 28, comprising:

user characteristic information by calculation means of obtaining characteristic information by calculation for each of said items on the basis of the contents registered in the past by the user who receives recommendation, or the contents recommended to the user or the contents recommended to and designated by the user by using designation means,

a user characteristic information database of storing the characteristic information obtained by calculation by using said user characteristic information calculation means,

type information calculation means of calculating said characteristic information calculated for each of said items as type information for each of said users, said various characteristics having been input,

type information selection means of selecting said type information of the user attempting to receive the recommendation by comparing said type information calculated by said type information calculation means with said characteristic information of the user attempting to receive the recommendation, and

display means of displaying the user type information selected by using said type information selection means

65. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 64, wherein said user characteristic is any one of the place of residence, the distinction of sex, age bracket, occupation and distinction between unmarried and married.

66. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 58, wherein said conditions having tendencies opposite to the tendencies of the occurrence frequencies of said contents are extracted as said input conditions.

67. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 59, wherein said conditions having tendencies opposite to the tendencies of the occurrence frequencies of said contents are extracted as said input conditions.

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68. (New) An information recommendation apparatus according to claim 60, wherein said conditions having tendencies opposite to the tendencies of the occurrence frequencies of said contents are extracted as said input conditions.

69. (New) An information recommendation apparatus wherein

said condition input means comprises means of externally inputting conditions, and said condition extraction means according to claim 56, and

said recommendation means selects said contents, coincident with or similar to said conditions extracted by using said condition extraction means, from only said contents conforming to said externally input conditions, and recommends said selected contents.

70. (New) An information recommendation apparatus wherein

said condition input means comprises means of externally inputting conditions, and said condition extraction means according to claim 57, and

said recommendation means selects said contents, coincident with or similar to said conditions extracted by using said condition extraction means, from only said contents conforming to said externally input conditions, and recommends said selected contents.

71. (New) An information recommendation apparatus wherein

said condition input means comprises means of externally inputting conditions, and said condition extraction means according to claim 58, and

said recommendation means selects said contents, coincident with or similar to said conditions extracted by using said condition extraction means, from only said contents conforming to said externally input conditions, and recommends said selected contents.

72. (New) An information recommendation apparatus wherein

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said condition input means comprises means of externally inputting conditions, and said condition extraction means according to claim 59, and

said recommendation means selects said contents, coincident with or similar to said conditions extracted by using said condition extraction means, from only said contents conforming to said externally input conditions, and recommends said selected contents.

73. (New) An information recommendation apparatus wherein

said condition input means comprises means of externally inputting conditions, and said condition extraction means according to claim 60, and .

said recommendation means selects said contents, coincident with or similar to said conditions extracted by using said condition extraction means, from only said contents conforming to said externally input conditions, and recommends said selected contents.